IN THE CLAIMS

Please add the following claims:

19. A device for holding substances during drying comprising a flask having a structure defining an opening; a first filter member disposed in the opening; and a second filter member disposed in the opening and having the capability of being contacted by the first filter when the first filter is flexed.

20. The device of Claim 19 additionally comprising a retainer ring engaged to the flask for retaining the first and second filter members in the opening.

21. The device of Claim 19 wherein said first filter member has a higher flexibility than the second filter member.

22. The device of Claim 19 wherein said structure of said flask additionally comprises a second opening.

23. The device of Claim 19 additionally comprising a third filter member disposed in a second opening.

24. The device of Claim 19 additionally comprising a temperature-conductive member passing through a side of the flask.

25. The device of Claim 19 wherein said first filter member includes a flexed structure in contact with the second filter member.

26. The device of Claim 19 wherein said first filter member and said second filter member have no absorbing material disposed between them.

27. The device of Claim 19 additionally comprising a pair of temperature-conductive members passing through the flask.

28. The device of Claim 20 wherein said retainer ring includes an inwardly protruding lip extending over a portion of the second filter member disposed between the inwardly protruding lip and the flask.

29. The device of Claim 28 additionally comprising a cap coupled to the retainer ring.

30. A device for holding substances during drying comprising a flask having a structure defining an opening; a first filter member disposed over the opening and having a flexed structure; and a second filter member disposed over the opening and in contact with the flexed structure.

31. The device of Claim 30 additionally comprising a retainer ring engaged to the flask and having an inwardly protruding lip extending over the second filter for retaining the first and second filter members over the opening of the flasks.

32. The device of Claim 30 wherein said first filter member has a higher flexibility than the second filter member.

33. The device of Claim 1 wherein said structure of said flask additionally comprises a second opening.

34. The device of Claim 6 additionally comprising a third filter member disposed in said second opening.

35. The device of Claim 1 additionally comprising at least one temperature-conductive member passing through a side of the flask.

36. The device of Claim 30 wherein said first filter member and said second filter member are juxtaposed with respect to each other and have no absorbing material disposed therebetween, and said second filter member is in contact with the flexed structure of the first filter member.

37. A device for holding substances during drying comprising a flask having a structure defining an opening; a first filter member disposed in the opening; and a second filter member disposed in the opening and having no absorbing material positioned between the first and second filter members.

38. The device of Claim 37 wherein said first filter member comprises a flexed structure in contact with the second filter member.

39. The device of Claim 37 wherein said first and second filter members are juxtaposed with respect to each other.

40. The device of Claim 37 additionally comprising at least one temperature-conductive member passing through the flash.

41. The device of Claim 39 additionally comprising at least one temperature-conductive member passing through the flask.

42. The device of Claim 1 wherein said first filter member includes a flexed structure in contact with the second filter member.

43. The device of Claim 1 wherein said first filter member and said second filter member have no absorbing material disposed between them.

44. The freeze-drying assembly of Claim 9 wherein said first filter member has a higher flexibility than the second filter member.

45. The freeze-drying assembly of Claim 9 wherein said structure of said flask additionally comprises a second opening.

46. The freeze-drying assembly of Claim 45 additionally comprising a third filter member disposed in said second opening.

47. The freeze-drying assembly of Claim 9 additionally comprising a temperature-conductive member passing through a side of the flask.

48. The freeze-drying assembly of Claim 46 additionally comprising a temperature-conductive member passing through a side of the flask.

49. The freeze-drying assembly of Claim 9 wherein said first filter member includes a flexed structure in contact with the second filter member.

50. The freeze-drying assembly of Claim 9 wherein said first filter member and said second filter member have no absorbing material disposed between them.

51. A method for processing a substance under sterile conditions comprising disposing a substance in a flask; positioning the flask in a drying apparatus; passing a drying medium through a first filter member and through a second filter member for drying the substance; and moving the second filter towards the first filter member.

52. The method of Claim 51 additionally comprising re-hydrating the dried substance.

53. The method of Claim 51 additionally comprising moving the second filter member against the first filter member.

54. The method of Claim 51 wherein said second filter member is juxtaposed to the first filter member.

55. The method of Claim 51 wherein said first filter member and said second filter member have no absorbing material disposed between them.

56. The method of Claim 10 wherein said first filter member and said second filter member have no absorbing material disposed between them.

57. A device for holding substances during drying comprising a flask having a structure defining an opening; a first filter member disposed in the opening; a second filter member disposed in the opening; and a temperature-conductive member passing through a side of the flask.

58. The device of Claim 57 wherein said structure defines a second opening.

59. The device of Claim 58 additionally comprising a third filter member disposed in said second opening.

60. The device of Claim 57 wherein said second filter possesses the capability of being contacted by the first filter when the first filter is flexed.

61. The device of Claim 59 wherein said second filter possesses the capability of being contacted by the first filter when the first filter is flexed.